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FIGHT FREE SEED GRAFT

Congressional Seed Distribution Doomed.

DETERMINED FIGHT ON

Seed Merchants Allege Free Distribution By Congress. Ruins Business.

FARMERS OPPOSE FREE SEEDS

Object to the Graft on Grounds of it Being But an Attempt to Influence Their Votes—Granges Are Active in Matter.

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 14 (Special).—Indications are that the Congressional Free Seed Distribution will be fought more bitterly next session than ever before. Encouraged by the pronounced opposition of the Senate and House Committees on Agriculture to this appropriation, and its almost universal condemnation by the press and public, those interested have undertaken a "campaign of education," to use a hackneyed term. The seed dealers make no secret of their opposition to the free distribution of common garden seeds. In an open letter to the public, Mr. Henry W. Wood, of Richmond, Va., president of the American Seed Trade Association, says that the seed dealers oppose the practice because it is an unjust interference with a legitimate industry, and because it is a waste of public money. Mr. Wood points out that the total packet-seed trade of the country amounts to 120,000,000 packets, of which the government gives away 40,000,000 and the dealers sell 80,000,000. "What industry could survive if the government gave away free, half as much as those engaged in the industry sold?" he asks. He also suggests that it is time for Congress to change off and give away axes, saws, pocket-knives and looking glasses, and give the poor seed merchants a rest. The American Seed Trade Association is composed of growers, wholesalers and retailers and is thoroughly in earnest in its opposition to government interference in its business. The Wholesale Seedsmen's League is also out against it. Between them they are in touch with about 10,000 persons engaged in growing and selling seeds, and with at least 50,000 storekeepers who carry seeds in stock. As some of the larger seed merchants have more than 100,000 customers who purchase seeds in small lots, it is expected that they will have been in communication with hundreds of thousands of people before next session.

Granges Are Active.

The granges have taken up the matter in a systematic manner. The farmers are tired of the idea that their votes can be influenced by the receipt of a package of seeds which they can buy at the corner grocery for 5 cents and which usually arrives too late for planting. They say they do not want sunflower and pumpkin seed from Congress, and point out that the \$242,000 now wasted in this manner would support a National Agricultural College, the like of which the world has never seen, with 80 professors at \$2500 a year and sufficient funds to maintain the institution. Divided among the agricultural colleges, it would give each state institution between five and ten thousand dollars more than they now receive. This, the farmers say, would do much more good than the distribution of rutabaga, turnips or parsnip seed.

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STEAL FRIGHT ENGINE.

Four Drunks Have Wild Ride on Freight Engine in Missouri.

MISSOULA, August 14.—Four men took possession of a freight engine at Saltese, one hundred miles east of here on the Coeur d'Alene branch of the Northern Pacific, and ran it to Stegis on a private excursion. A warrant is out for the arrest of Frank Regan and the caretaker of the engine and three unknown companions. It is stated the men had been drinking heavily and drove the engine at a terrific speed, ringing the bell and blowing the whistle. They stopped at several stations to obtain more drink. At Stegis the water in the boiler became dangerously low and the men did not know how to refill it. They left the engine standing on the main line and fled.

ROOT RECEIVES OVATION.

BUENOS AYRES, August 14.—Despite the heavy rain, immense crowds assembled at the docks to witness the arrival of Secretary Root and party, who were received by the minister of foreign affairs, accompanied by M. Beau, the American minister, and his secretary. The visitors were heartily cheered along their route to the palatial residence in the Avenue Alvear, placed at their disposal by Dr. Liebet, which was crowded with spectators. The streets and almost every house are decorated with American flags.

SHOOT UP THE TOWN

Negro Soldiers Kill Two and Wound One at Brownsville.

CITIZENS ASK FOR REMOVAL

In Revenge For Being Refused Privilege of Drinking at Bars With the Whites, Negroes Fire Down Main Street.

BROWNSVILLE, Texas, August 14.—Because they had been refused the privilege of drinking at bars with the white customers, and several of them had been arrested for unseemly behavior on the streets, 20 negro soldiers, members of a company of the Twenty-fifth Infantry stationed at Fort Brown near here, entered Brownsville today, became unruly, and fired several volleys down the main street. As a result two men were killed and a policeman wounded and his horse shot from under him. A number of balls entered the houses and several bricks were shot from the walls of the Miller Hotel near a window where guests were sleeping. After their depredations the negroes returned to the garrison. The governor has been requested to ask that the negro troops be immediately removed to avoid further trouble.

SHOOT UP CAMP.

HOOD RIVER, Or., August 14.—Harry Holmes, employed in a logging camp near the new lumber town of Dee, at the terminus of the Mount Hood Railroad, while intoxicated Sunday night, started to shoot up the town. With a rifle he shot out several lights and window panes in the camp, and, drawing a bead on several employees who were standing about, ordered them to dance. Thomas Olsen, who did not comply with his request quick enough, was shot through the foot, the ball entering the instep and coming out at the heel. Holmes, taking his gun, then fled to the timber, and the city marshal here was notified to arrest him. As the marshal had no warrant and it would have taken several hours to reach the scene of the trouble it was considered useless to follow him. It is thought that Holmes made for the O. R. & N. Railroad and got away on a freight train. Olsen was brought to this city and placed in the hospital, where it is said that unless blood poisoning should set in his foot will be saved.

FIRST CASE FOR TRIAL

Frisco Earthquake Insurance Case Trial Set.

MAY MAKE TEST CASE

Insurance Attorney Demands Trial By Jury—Case is First to Come for Trial.

DECISION MEANS GREAT DEAL

Insurance Companies Will Probably Await Result of First Case to Determine Whether Earthquake Clause be Disregarded.

SAN FRANCISCO, August 14.—The first of the insurance cases involving the earthquake clause, was set for trial today by Superior Judge Hebbard. The case is that of the Rosenthal Shoe Company, against the Williamsburg City Fire Insurance Company. The attorney for the insurance people asked that the case be not set for trial until an opportunity could be given for the judge to mutually arrange with the insurance companies, for a test case. He said the insurance companies, would demand a jury trial in each case and unless proper arrangements were made for test case, the courts would be occupied for years in hearing insurance litigation. The court asked the insurance attorney, if he waived a jury trial, and was answered "no." The judge then asked, "Do you demand a jury trial?" but he could get no direct answer. The attorney for the Shoe Company, then announced to save time, that he would formally demand a jury trial. The case was set for August 27.

COMPLETE TIE-UP.

All Steam Schooners in Frisco Tied Up Because of Longshoremen's Strike.

SAN FRANCISCO, August 14.—All steam schooners now in port, belonging to the steamship association, remained tied up today as a result of the longshoremen's refusal to work with non-union sailors. More schooners are en route, lumber laden and these too will be temporarily put out of commission. This city is dependant upon the sailing vessels for its lumber supply, and an early shortage of building material, is looked for.

SPECIAL GOVERNOR GENERALSHIP.

ST. PETERSBURG, August 14.—In view of the representations of foreign mining interests in Donets Basin, with regard to the seriousness of the situation at Uzovka and elsewhere, the government has erected whole coal and iron region affected into a special governor-generalship in order be better able to control the situation and has taken the unprecedented step of creating a special advisory commission of mining representatives to act in concert with the new official. Disorders and collisions with the troops continue. At Uzovka a meeting today was dispersed by the Cosack whips.

MURDER AVENGED.

MARIETTA, I. T., August 14.—The murder of Dr. Graham of Holder, I. T., who was shot and killed a month ago by Ben Stewart, was avenged today when unknown parties shot the latter from ambush, killing him instantly. Cal Stewart, a brother of the dead man, eluded the assassins by whipping his horse into a run.

CARS ARE STOPPED.

Coney Island Electric Cars Cease Running to Avoid Trouble.

NEW YORK, August 14.—Following the arrest of several inspectors of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company on charges of assault in the third degree, the company has shut off entirely all its surface lines running to Coney Island, taking the position that this was the only way to stop the rioting, which has been in progress since Sunday morning at points where a second fare was demanded. The elevated and express trains to the seashore were augmented. The arrested inspectors were bailed in the sum of \$500 each. A rear end collision between trolley cars on the west end railroad, near Coney Island today resulted in the injury of a dozen persons, one seriously. The accident occurred at a sharp curve.

ENGLISH PLUG FINED.

BAYONNE, N. J., August 14.—James Pierce, an Englishman, was this morning fined \$25 for hissing an American flag at a theatre. The result almost caused a riot. The judge who assessed the fine was a member of the audience.

BEGINS ICE TRUST INQUIRY.

TOLEDO, O., August 14.—The government's ice trust investigation began today. Commissioner Clements is conducting the case.

SEARCH FOR TRUNK

Detectives in Stensland Case Tracking Iron Bound Trunk.

TAKEN BY BANK PRESIDENT

Information at Hand Shows That the Absconding Embezzler Made Extensive Preparations to Flee Aided by Women.

CHICAGO, August 14.—Testimony indicating that extensive preparations to leave were made by President Stensland of the Milwaukee Avenue Bank and that women entered into these preparations, was secured by assistant States Attorney Olsen today through the cross-examination of Miss Allen McCracken, housekeeper for Stensland. It was learned that Stensland took with him in trunks and boxes, sheets and other household linen, curtains, bedding, carpets, rugs and a silver dinner set. Some of this it is said has been traced to Baraboo, Wis. The large trunk that is being tracked, is said to be three feet high and bound with iron. Telegrams have been sent all over the world to trainmen to look for the big trunk.

TO APPEAL CASE.

HELENA, Mont., August 14.—A telegram from San Francisco announces that the United States Circuit Court of Appeals has affirmed the judgment secured in the Federal Court here by the St. Louis Mining Company against the Montana Mining Company for \$195,000 for ore extracted from veins alleged to apex in the plaintiff's ground. Both are adjoining mining companies in Marysville, this state, and have been at law 14 years. Judgment, costs and interest amount to about \$205,000, and it is considered one of the largest mining cases every tried in Montana. The Montana Company will appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States.

RAVAGES OF CHIPMUNKS.

BEND, Ore., August 14.—Farmers from all parts of the country complain of the great damage done by chipmunks this season. They are more numerous this year than for many years. They destroy not only grain and potato crops, but also small fruits. L. D. Wiest, of this place, reports that he has found that Rough on Rats mixed with bran is the best destroyer of these pests.

BIG SALE IN OREGON LAND

Eastern and California Men Purchasers.

500,000 ACRES SOLD

Track Runs From Cascade Forest Reserve to Oregon-Idaho Boundary.

STRIP IS 325 MILES LONG

Purchase of Land Declared to be Initiative Step in an Extensive Colonization Project—Purchase Price \$750,000.

PORTLAND, August 14.—The ownership of almost one one hundredth of the area of the State of Oregon changed hands today. After extended negotiations a greater portion of the land included in the old Oregon central military road grant, was transferred from the California and Oregon Land Company of which the Booth-Kelly Lumber Company is a large owner, to a syndicate composed of Eastern and California capitalists. Approximately 500,000 acres are included in the sale and the consideration involved is about \$750,000. The principal purchasers of this great tract are the Hunter Land Company of Minneapolis, Minn., and Richard Sykes, a capitalist of Santa Barbara, Cal. Associated with them are the W. B. S. Trimble Company of Jamestown, N. D., and Andrew E. Johnson, vice-president of the Hunter Land Company and President A. E. Johnson of the Land & Steamship Company. The tract sold, is a strip of land running from the Cascade forest reserve, to the Oregon-Idaho boundary, a distance approximately of 325 miles. It has a width of 12 miles. The only portion excluded from the sale, is a strip about 25 miles long, running through the Klamath Indian reservation. The purchase of the tract is declared to be the initiative step in an extensive colonization project.

CONDITIONS IMPROVED.

Forest Fires in Santiam Section Are Not Spreading So Fast.

ALBANY, Ore., August 14.—Reports received from the Cascade forest reserve fire in the mountains east of here indicate that while there are no prospects of extinguishing the fires until the heavy fall rains come, the condition today is better, and temporarily at ease, because the wind has died down. With but one exception there has been little spread in the fire belt since yesterday, this exception starting a new fire in the green timber on the lower Santiam.

CHANCE TO EARN GOLD BRICKS.

COLORADO SPRINGS, August 14.—The International Typographical Union convention did no business today. The printers took an excursion to Cripple Creek to visit the miner. Twelve hundred dollars in gold bricks will be given for the best account of the trip written by a member, published outside of Colorado.

JEWELRY ROBBERY IN LONDON.

LONDON, August 14.—Jewelry worth \$35,000 was stolen from a case belonging to Venese merchants at Earl's court exhibition. The theft occurred in daylight.

ATTACK WAR RECORD.

Anonymous Circulars at G. A. R. Encampment Cause Some Bitterness.

MINNEAPOLIS, August 14.—Considerable activity and some bitterness was today injected into the contest for commander in chief of the G. A. R., which is holding its annual encampment here. Many copies of a circular attacking the war record of Captain P. H. Coney of Kansas a prominent candidate for the office, were handed about. The circulars are not signed and Captain Coney decided the attack so utterly baseless, as to be almost beneath his notice. Two members of the G. A. R. died today, making three who have passed away since the commencement of the encampment. J. H. Burke of Burlingame, Kas., fell dead while standing in front of the clerk's desk in the Pauly Hotel, of apoplexy. The other death was George Smith, a former member of the First New York dragoons. Smith was knocked down by a horse driven rapidly around a corner just as he was about to take a street car and died soon after.

SPECULATION ON MEETING.

LONDON, August 15.—The meeting between Edward and William is the subject for editorial articles in all the daily papers this morning, and speculation on its probable effect on all the existing problems of European politics.

CONVENTION OPENS

Texas Democrats Prepare to Name Party Ticket.

MUCH EXCITEMENT PROMISED

Judge Cockrell of Dallas, is Named as Temporary Chairman—Senator Bailey is Given an Enthusiastic Ovation.

DALLAS, Texas, August 14.—With 700 delegates, the number limited by law, and more than 4000 spectators, what promises to be the most exciting convention held by the democracy of Texas since 1892, when the party split and nominated James S. Hogg and Geo. Clark for Governor, was opened today. The first session was devoted to usual preliminaries, Judge Cockrell of Dallas being named as temporary chairman. The first ballot for governor will hardly be taken before tomorrow afternoon and owing to the peculiar naming system, it is expected each ballot will require several hours. In the recent primary election T. M. Campbell, formerly a prominent railroad man, received 31 per cent; Judge M. M. Brooks, 24 per cent and O. B. Colquitt, a member of the state railway commission, 23 per cent, and former Congressman C. K. Bell, 22 per cent. Senator Culberson was not present, but Senator Bailey received an ovation.

MAD MULLAH ON WAR PATH.

LONDON, August 14.—According to the correspondent at Aden, of the Daily Mail, after devastating 19 Ogaden villages, the "Mad Mullah," inflated by his success, attacked the Sultan of the Mijertains territory. Both sides lost heavily. The Sultan had nine near relatives, and 700 followers killed, but eventually repulsed the Mullah toward Illig and the coast.

ALL BODIES RECOVERED.

SPOKANE, August 14.—A telephone message from Davenport this afternoon states that all bodies of the victims of Sunday's drowning have been recovered.

D. K. KELTZ DEAD.

LA GRANDE, Ore., August 14.—D. K. Keltz, aged 56 years, died at his home in this city August 11. He was a native of Wheeling, West Virginia.